

# OLD-TIME CARICATURES—No. 12.

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THIS cartoon was printed and circulated in England over 140 years ago. Its date is 1756. It recalls a most dramatic episode in English history—the loss of the island of Minorca, which was taken from the English by the French in that year. When the news reached England there was intense excitement. Admiral Byng, who had been sent out with a fleet to relieve Fort St. Philip, and had failed to do so, became the object of public fury. He was burned and hanged in effigy all over England.

Byng showed that the fleet under his command was unfit to cope with the French fleet off Minorca with any chance of success, and so justified his return to Gibraltar, leaving Minorca to the French. His explanation was scouted, though afterwards admitted to be true. He was court-martialed and shot to death. The ministry of the day was willing to save him, but dare not face the rage of the populace. The King would not save him because he was playing to put the ministry in a hole. Byng was, in fact, a martyr to the exigencies of politics.

The above cartoon appeared at the height of the national rage against the unfortunate Admiral, and reflects it. The British lion is depicted as having lost one of his four paws (Minorca), and the people of all classes, as well as the army and navy officers, are shown in the crowd gathered around the noble animal, uttering various indignant cries. In the left corner we see a group of aristocrats who are playing cards—the suggestion being that the nobility were idling and gambling while the country was going to ruin. In the right corner of the picture the Ministers of the day are shown trying to offer excuses for Byng and the Minorca disaster. Altogether it is one of the most salient and typical of old-time caricatures.

## THE EFFECT OF A BIG WORD.



MR. O'HOOIHAN: "Git out av the way or I'll run over yez!"



MR. ALLRIGHT: "Sir! I'll have you know the right of way belongs to the pedestrian."



MR. O'HOOIHAN: "I begs yer honor's pardon; I didn't know yez was one of them fellers."